

Turkey-EU Positive agenda

Enhanced EU-Turkey Energy Cooperation

Outcome of the meeting of Commissioners Oettinger and Füle and Ministers Yildiz and Bağıs on 14 June 2012, in Stuttgart

Energy is a topic of key interest in EU-Turkey relations. Turkey's further development as an energy bridge and potential energy hub will benefit both Turkey and the EU. In view of their geographic proximity, a further market integration would be in the interest of both sides. Turkey and the EU furthermore have many challenges in common in their endeavours to secure sustainable energy supplies and to ensure competitive energy markets.

An enhanced EU-Turkey energy cooperation could focus on the topics below. Under each topic, concrete activities will be developed to promote closer ties at political, administrative and commercial level. Furthermore, the Commission is willing to assess and support, where possible, Turkey's closer involvement in activities and working groups as well as certain committees -as observer- related to the development and implementation of European policies that would promote Turkey's proximity to EU energy policy.

(1) Long-term perspectives on energy scenarios and energy mix

Both the EU and Turkey are developing long term energy policy perspectives. Consultation on these would favour joint understanding of possible future market evolutions and policy developments. An exchange of views on the decisions, plans and projects that need to be made in the coming years would facilitate meeting their common long term objective of safe, secure and sustainable energy.

The European Commission's Energy Roadmap 2050, which outlines different scenarios towards a low carbon economy, could be used as a reference document for the EU side. The Turkish energy strategy 2023 could be used as a reference document on the Turkish side.

Turkey and EU have similar long term priorities as regards security of supply, diversification of sources and increased use of renewable and indigenous resources and energy efficiency and further cooperation in this field would be mutually beneficial.

(2) Market integration and development of infrastructures of common interest

Cooperation to enable the integration of the Turkish gas and electricity markets into the European Union's internal energy market could be intensified, taking into consideration essential requirements regarding their policies on energy, environment and competition.

Gas

A particular focus could be put on the reciprocal opening of the Turkish and European gas markets, and their subsequent integration in the context of Turkey's accession process.

Cooperation could notably address the framework for the transport of natural gas through the EU to Turkey and through Turkey to the EU. Turkey and EU are partners in promoting the development of bidirectional pipeline connections around the Southern Black Sea, aimed at strengthening their security of supply. The promotion of direct contracts and the development of dedicated infrastructure would be important in this respect. It would be of mutual interest to ensure that the Anatolian routes included in the Southern Gas Corridor will be of a sufficiently large scale to accommodate future increased volumes of gas. Cooperation on development of necessary infrastructure for the purposes of bi-directional flow and on the construction of LNG terminals and relevant storage facilities will be key to enhancing diversification of routes and sources and to the development of Turkey as a regional natural gas hub.

Electricity

After the expected completion of Turkey's full synchronous interconnection with the EU electricity system in September 2012, new possibilities for electricity trade in both directions will arise. The possibilities for a closer involvement of Turkey in ENTSO-e upon full synchronous interconnection may be explored.

As Turkey continues to make progress in implementing the EU Third Energy Market Package, the Commission will consider, together with ENTSO-E the possibility for TEİAŞ to become an observer to ENTSO-E. Cooperation may be undertaken on Smart Grid development and energy exchanges.

Oil

The EU and Turkey will consider cooperation on oil related policies focusing on responses to emergency situations, realization of major infrastructure projects and protection of marine environment.

Infrastructure

The EU and Turkey could work together on optimising financing for new infrastructure of common interest, both through market-based means (the use of possible instruments such as project bonds, equity participation, public private partnerships, etc) and through the use of non-commercial financing possibilities (EU instruments, international financial institutions, etc.).

Turkey will explore possibilities for including energy infrastructure investments during the development of IPA-2.

(3) Global and regional energy cooperation

A regular exchange of information on energy cooperation at the global and regional level would benefit both sides. This could notably relate to energy relations existing and potential partnerships including Central Asia, the Caucasus, Russian Federation, the Middle East and

the Mediterranean Basin. In addition, consultation could be held concerning the energy activities undertaken regionally and globally.

(4) Promotion of renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean energy technologies

Turkey and the EU have set themselves very ambitious targets for renewable energy, which will require very significant investments in the sector in the coming 10 years. In this field, cooperation could develop as regards regulatory matters and investment.

Turkey and the EU are also prioritising the promotion of energy efficiency. The EU could provide expertise to support the development of Turkey's legal framework and administrative capacity relating to the promotion of energy efficiency.

The further promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency can continue to be addressed under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA). Turkey is considering its participation in the Intelligent Energy for Europe programme.

Turkey is determined to develop indigenous fossil fuels, which are vital for the satisfaction of the increasing energy demand of its growing economy via environmentally friendly technologies. Turkey and the EU both aim to promote sustainable use of coal notably through the promotion of clean coal technologies, carbon capture and storage and gasification techniques. They may further develop their cooperation in this field.

(5) Nuclear safety and radiation protection

Assuring the highest standards of nuclear safety in Turkey is a mutual interest. The EU may offer expertise on the development of adequate legal standards and an appropriate administrative framework for matters of nuclear safety (taking also into account the conclusions to be drawn from the stress tests exercise to which Turkey has already voluntarily accepted to participate and the potential improvements of the current regulatory framework), as well as the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

It is noted with satisfaction that Turkey has submitted a project for the promotion of nuclear safety and radiation protection under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA).

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Within the framework of Positive Agenda coordinated by the European Commission on the EU side and Ministry for EU Affairs on the Turkish side, implementing activities will be defined by the European Commission's DG Energy and the Turkish Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. For instance, specific technical workshops could be organised by DG Energy and Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources under the guidance of the working group.

Activities and technical workshops will be steered by the working group, which will have a meeting at least once a year and which will report to the relevant political authorities.